

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-10 IO-14 SAM-01 SCCT-02

DRC-01 /167 W

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R 271415Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2686

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJECT: WAR GOES ON: ATTACK ON CALDAS XAVIER

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 488, A-106;

(B) LOURENCO MARQUES 404

1. PRESS JUNE 27 REPORTS GUERRILLAS ARMED WITH RECOILLESS RIFLES AND MORTARS ATTACKED TOWN OF CALDAS XAVIER (14 DEG. 24' S., 33DEG. 01' E.), NIGHT OF JUNE 25, PENETRATING INTO TOWN AND CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE AND SOME INJURIES BEFORE BEING REPELLED BY PORTUGUESE TROOPS. CALDAS XAVIER IS SMALL TOWN ON TETE RAILWAY LINE, SOME TEN MILES FROM MALAWI FRONTIER WHERE RAIL LINE TURNS WEST TOWARDS MOATIZE.

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WM OTHER GUERRILLA ACTIONS REPORTED BY PRESS SINCE LAST

REGULAR BRIEFING (REF A), INCLUDE ASSASSINATIONS OF THREE AFRICAN CHIEFS (IN CABO DELGADO AND VILA PEREIRA DISTRICTS) AND NUMEROUS ATTACKS ON ALDEAMENTOS (SOME USING 122 MM. ROCKETS) IN CABO DELGADO, NIASSA, AND TETE DISTRICTS. DEATHS AND NUMEROUS KIDNAPPINGS ARE REPORTED AMONG AFRICAN POPULATION. RAILWAY WORKERS WERE ATTACKED NEAR CATUR, IN NIASSA, AND ON JUNE 21 A MAIL TRAIN WAS AMBUSHED FOUR KILOMETERS FROM INHAMITANGA (18 DEG. 13' S., 35 DEG. 10' E.) ON T.Z.R. LINE, WOUNDING FIVE PASSENGERS IN THIRD-CLASS COACH WHICH WAS APPARENTLY SPECIAL OBJECT OF ATTACK. A CIVILIAN PICKUP TRUCK NORTH OF PORTO AMELIA WAS AMBUSHED, KILLING AFRICAN WOMAN AND WOUNDING CHILD. WAR, LARGELY DIRECTED AGAINST AFRICAN CIVILIANS, THUS CONTINUES ESSENTIALLY UNABATED.

3. FRELIMO CONTINUES DENY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS; ON JUNE 22 LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT VOZ DA FRELIMO RADIO IN LUSAKA ACCUSED ZECA CALIATE (FRELIMO SECTOR COMMANDER WHO DEFECTED IN JULY 1973) OF DIRECTING REACTIONARY ARMED GROUPS IN TERRORIST ACTIONS NEAR VILA GOUVEIA IN VILA PEREIRA DISTRICT. PORTUGUESE HAVE DENIED CHARGE, SAYING CALIATE HAS BEEN UNDER MILITARY CONTROL SINCE HIS DEFECTION.

4. PORTUGUESE CONTINUE (REF B) TO WITHDRAW UNITS FROM LOCALITIES "NOT OF MILITARY INTEREST", IN MID-JUNE FROM MAVUZI-MINAS, NACHINANAGA, AND MUZE IN TETE (ALL BELIEVED TO BE NEAR ZAMBIAN FRONTIER) AND SUBSEQUENTLY FROM NAMBUDE (SOUTH OF MOCIMBOA DA PRAIA - MUEDA ROAD IN CABO DELGADO). COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING NAMBUDE WITHDRAWAL ON JUNE 27 NOTED THAT THESE REDEPLOYMENTS WERE "PART OF DEFINITE STRATEGY CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE".

5. COMMENT: THOUGH IT WOULD SEEM THAT PORTUGUESE NOW CONDUCTING A PRIMARILY HOLDING OPERATION, WAR IS CLEARLY NOT YET OVER. WE HEAR NUMEROUS RUMORS -- THOUGH NO FIRM CONFIRMATION -- THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF TROOPS AND WEAPONS, INCLUDING WARPLANES, ARE STILL ARRIVING IN BEIRA.
REED

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